

POTPOURRI

Department of Health and Hospitals Bureau of Health Services Financing

Behavioral Health Service Providers Licensing Standards

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopted provisions in order to establish licensing standards governing behavioral health service (BHS) providers to comply with the directives of Act 308 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 41, Number 9).

Upon further consideration, the department has determined that mental health rehabilitation clinics require additional time to comply with the licensure requirements, and has extended the deadline for submission of the initial licensure application for these BHS provider types.

Therefore, any unlicensed agency that is a provider of psychosocial rehabilitation, crisis intervention, community psychiatric support and treatment, and/or independent living/skills building services, and is required to be licensed as a BHS provider, has until December 31, 2016 to submit an initial licensing application packet to the department's Health Standards Section (HSS).

Any entity that meets the provisions above may continue to operate until the department acts upon the initial license

application and any and all appeal processes associated with the initial licensure is complete or the delay for taking an appeal has expired, whichever is later. This extension does not apply to those applicants seeking to be licensed as substance abuse/addiction treatment facilities and mental health clinics.

Applicants are prohibited from providing behavioral health services to clients during the initial application process and prior to obtaining licensure, unless the applicant qualifies as a licensed mental health clinic, a licensed substance abuse/addiction treatment facility, or meets the above provisions for extension.

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Secretary